



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

WHERE YOUNG MINDS MEET NEW PLACES.

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HIERIEDS.

WRITE TO US!

We want to hear from you, so start writings.

- Write to us at: The Editor, NG KIDS, PO Box 2271,
- Send us an e-mail to fiona@ngkids.co.za or SMS* us a letter to "NGK Letters" 33970.
- * Standard rates apply for MMSs, so ask your parents first! SMSs cost R1.50. Free SMSs do not apply. See www.ngkids.co.za for terms and conditions.

It is awful that rhinos are killed for things we ourselves produce every day: fingernails, toenails and hair! Some very upsetting pictures of rhinos with bloodied heads left in the veld after poachers have cut off their horn have been published in newspapers and on websites. These shocking pictures prompted people to take action, mainly by donating money to a well-known environmental organisation. We decided not to put these in the magazine but it's important that you understand how serious the situation is. There is a lot you can do. One little boy raised money by selling rhino bands. You can also tell everybody that rhino horn has absolutely no special powers!

This is quite a serious way to start the year but I know how much animals and particularly rhinos mean to NG KIDS readers.

South Africa is an amazing place to live and now the world knows what we knew all along. Table Mountain in Cape Town has been voted one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. It's fantastic news and is sure to bring many more visitors to our country.

Take a look at Inside Scoop this month. You'll find lots of news as usual, but then you'll see that you can vote for the stories you want to read more about in 2012. If you don't want to SMS you can e-mail me at Fiona@ngkids.co.za or give me a call at 021-443-9841. It's a new number as the team has moved into a new, very cool office which even has a pool table!

Dare to Explore!





WWW.STOPRHINOPOACHING.COM

DEAR FIONA

THE BOYS AT ST STITHIANS COLLEGE IN JOHANNESBURG

FOR THIS CAUSE

TAKE PART IN MANY PROJECTS TO

SAVE THE RHINO. HERE THEY ARE STANDING TOGETHER IN SUPPORT

DURING THE OCTOBER HOLIDAYS I WENT TO THE ADDO ELEPHANT PARK WITH MY MUM, DAD, BROTHER AND LITTLE SISTER. THERE WERE MANY ELEPHANTS. ON THE LAST DAY WE SAW A HERD OF 31 ELEPHANTS! THERE ARE MANY OTHER ANIMALS AS WELL. WE SAW ONE OF THE RAREST: A LION. THERE ARE ONLY NINE OF THEM IN THE PARK. I TOOK A CUTE PICTURE OF TWO OSTRICHES STANDING BEHIND EACH OTHER, SO IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OSTRICH WITH TWO HEADS. BEHIND THEM AN ELEPHANT IS WALKING BY, HE SEEMS TO WANT TO BE PART OF IT AS WELL - HE'S RAISING HIS TRUNK. I LOVE CAMPING AND THE OUTDOORS AND I LOVE NG KIDS JUST AS MUCH!

MARISKA DE WIT, 13



January's subscriber of the month is Leon Visagie, 8, from Swartpan Farm, Makwassie, in the North West Province.

Leon won an awesome NIVEA® SUN hamper valued at R800 which includes a NIVEA® SUN Kids Swim & Play Lotion SPF 50+, Kids Trigger Spray SPF 50+, Kids Sun Lotion SPF 50+, Light Feeling Daily Face Sun Fluid SPF 50+, Invisible Protection Spray SPF 50, NIVEA® beach towel and kids reading book Paley, The Little Boy who wanted to be Friends with the Sun.

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REPRODUCTION Media24 **PRINTING** Paarl Media Cape DISTRIBUTION: -----



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS is published and distributed twelve times a year by Media24, with permission of the National Geographic Society, Washington, DC 20036.

Published by the National Geographic Society. Chairman of the Board and CEO John M. Fahey, Jr.

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Everything you need to know about the majestic rhino.

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Animal Myths Busted

Are elephants really scared of mice? Find out inside!

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Uncover the secrets of this mysterious cat.

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Send us your artworks and win amazing prizes!

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH. GREATSTOCK / CORBIS IRHINO)

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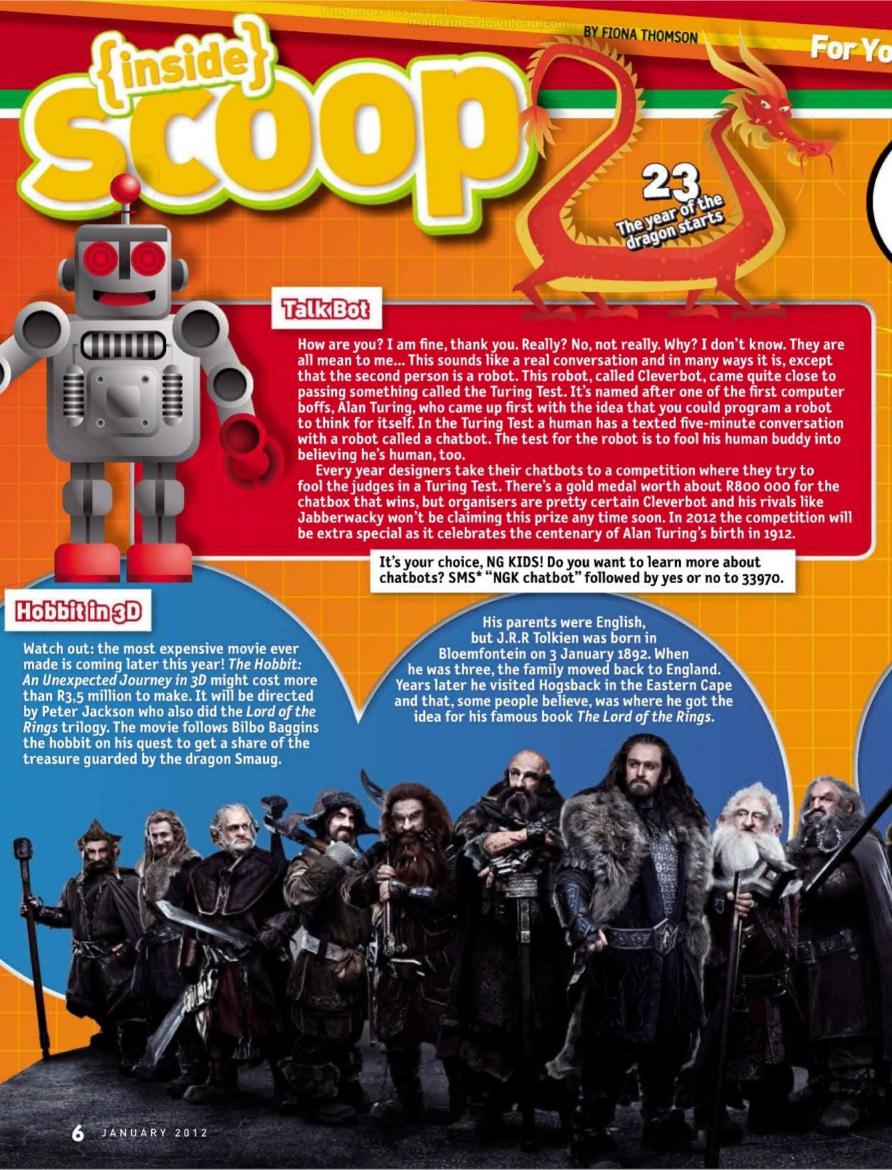
ONE: Ask Mum or Dad to help you.

HOW TO:

Registeration of the control of the

THREE:
Search for
National Geographic
Kids and click "add

FOUR: Go to the checkout, enter your credit card details and download your e-zine!







8 facts to light up your WOrld

A New Year's Eve celebration in Portugal

included 65 000 more than 65 000 ireworks.

The first lighthouse was three taller than most of the ones today.

5 Some jellyfish give off light to scare away predators.

7 Antarctica can have 24 hours of daylight in summer.

A Ferris wheel in California runs on solar DOWEr.

flashes
more than

30
times each
second
all over the

world.

from the SUN
reaches Earth
in 8,32
minutes; the
space shuttle
would take about

220 days.

Lemons can power lightbulbs.





BY SARAH YOUNGSON

A LITTLE LESS SLOBBER, PLEASE!

BABY CHEETAH GETS PET DOG

Florida, America

Whenever Kasi the cheetah wants Mtani the Labrador retriever's attention, he chirps like a baby bird. Mtani responds by chasing Kasi's tail. "They absolutely love spending time together," says zoologist Mike Boos of Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, where the friends live.

The animals were introduced shortly after Kasi was abandoned by his mother. The baby cheetah was sad and alone, so caretakers found him a pal. They brought Mtani from an animal shelter and began supervising playdates for the pair.

Now Kasi and Mtani spend most of their days cuddling, rolling around in the grass of the park's cheetah habitat and playing tug-of-war with stuffed animal toys. They even share a large pillow when they snooze, with Kasi often falling asleep right on top of Mtani! If the cheetah is separated from his Lab friend, he chirps until the dog returns. Luckily the buddies have a lot of together time in their future: they've started travelling the country with their keepers, helping teach people about endangered animals such as cheetahs. "The two will be friends for life," says Mike.

CHEETAH

HEIGHT 60 to 90 centimetres
WEIGHT 34 to 65 kilograms
RANGE Africa and part of the
Middle East

claim to fame These super-speedy big cats can go from 0 to 96 kilometres an hour in three seconds. Their 70-centimetre-long tails help them stay balanced during

FUN TO KNOW Cheetahs need to drink water only once every three to four days.

MTANI AND KASI ENJOY SOME PLAYTIME.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER

HEIGHT 50 to 60 centimetres
WEIGHT 24 to 36 kilograms
ORIGIN Newfoundland, Canada
CLAIM TO FAME With their
webbed feet and strong tails,
Labs are great swimmers. They
were first bred to retrieve
fishing nets from the water.
FUN TO KNOW Some Labradors
work with rescue teams

work with rescue teams to save people trapped by avalanches, floods or other natural disasters.





HAVE FUN AT SPIER

Splar is the ultimate family experience

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हान्निप्रानिक such as visiting the कीवर्गकी and bildsofprey projects.

The Splar hotal has a supervised children's @lubliousa where kilds can play cames or watcha DVD while parents enjoy treatments at the spalt is a fun adventure for the enthe family,

Visit भूभभाक्षां वास्त्वास्त्र or call 021-809-1100 for more details.

WIN WITH SPEEDO

Speedo SA has launched a new, colourful Learn to Stylin range of

swimwear and equipment for kids. The Sea Squadkit contains goggles, a swim cap and armbands.



You can will one of fifteen Learn to Svilin kits valued at Reso each. E-mail your name, age and number to finfo@leapcommunications.co.za and include Speeds NG Kids Giveaway in the subject heading. Available at selected shops. @11 @21-461-0246 for more information. Ask your parents to "Like" the Speedb SA Facebook page and look out for regular competitions.

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oung gesigner Winners

did you know?

Eta or the symbol

7 is the Greek

symbol for

efficiency.

100 - 000



WHO: Keegan Cordeiro, 16, White River IDEA: A solar-powered system to charge cell phones and other small appliances

Keegan designed and built a solarpowered system that can charge
cell phones and run various small
appliances that require 220 volts
of alternating current and use a
two-point plug. The solar panel
charges a battery which is 12 volts DC
(direct current) and the inverter charges
the DC current to 220 volts AC (alternative
current) which is needed by many appliances.



WHO: Greenwood Independent School in Plettenburg Bay IDEA: A green solution to a big problem in low-cost housing in South Africa

Greenwood Independent School in Plettenburg Bay was crowned the winner in the Young Designers category of the Eskom 2011 eta Awards. The team looked at the relationship between climate, building design and energy usage in RDP house design. Through a series of experiments back at school, they found that RDP houses had no insulation and precious heat would escape through the roofs and windows. The team also found that north-facing houses had a temperature rise of six degrees internally, compared to west-facing houses which had no temperature rise at all! Positioning and building the houses so they face north and insulating the roof would save a lot of energy! The team met the local mayor who said their findings "were a real eye-opener" to him and their research would be taken into account when new RDP houses are built. These young designers made a huge impact on their local environment and on the lives of township residents in the future.



WHO: Laura Andreas, 16, Cape Town IDEA: A water purifier that generates electricity at the same time

Laura has built a solar furnace that takes
the salt out of salt water and also generates
electricity. She chose this project as she wanted
to see if it is possible to desalinate water and
generate electricity using only solar energy.
Her solar-powered desalinating device heats salt
water to boiling point, with the steam driving a
turbine which generates electricity. By condensing
the steam, it produces fresh, drinkable water!





WHO

The grade 4 class at Shri Vishnu
Primary School in Pietermaritzburg
DESIGN:

The Solar Cooking Project

The class won a special award for developing a way to reduce energy use, while recycling everyday items found around the home. Using an old satellite dish and compact discs the class made a system that boils two litres of water in 25 minutes. Now you can prepare a meal while you are recycling!

Visit www.eta-awards.co.za to find out more about the eta awards.



Rhinos are the powerhouses of the animal kingdom, but there are many dangers in the tall grass of the savanna. NG KIDS uncovers the secrets of the African rhinos.



BY FIONA THOMSON



THREAT TO RHINOS

Southern white rhinoceros were once found in large numbers across southern Africa. Their horns and thick skin protected them against predators like lion and hyena. In the 19th century they were almost wiped out by hunters. Their survival is a conservation success story as there were only 100 white rhinos left

In the past few years poaching has become a big problem again. "One of the worst years for conservation in South Africa was 2010," says Dr David Mabunda, the Chief Executive of South African National Parks. A total of 333 rhinos were poached, most of them from the Kruger National Park. Last

Most of the rhinos killed were white rhinos. People poach the rhino for its horns because of an Asian myth that the horn has special medicinal powers.



NG KIDS READER ASKS THE QUESTIONS!

Stuart Davis (13) from Glenashley Preparatory School in Durban interviewed Braam Malherbe about rhinos. Braam is an honorary ranger for South African National Parks and has been involved in training rangers for operations against poaching.

Braam: Not only are they one of Africa's Big Five, they represent something ancient that has been here for a long, long time. All humans originally came from Africa, so, we are all connected to Africa no matter where we live. Rhino poaching is a symbol of man's greed and ignorance. There is no medicinal value in the horn. It's made up of keratin just like a human fingernail. So you might as well chew your fingernails instead of killing a rhino for its horn!

Braam: Seeing them for the first time as a young boy. It was early morning and the smells of the bush were all around. We were walking and all of a sudden a rhino cow and her calf stood up from their sleep in the long grass. The air was crisp and I will never forget the mist coming from their nostrils as they sniffed the air for any threat. We were downwind, so they could not smell us and their eyesight is poor. It was a special and humbling experience!

Stuart: Do you believe we are doing our best to prevent rhino poaching?

Braam: We are trying hard but we can always do better. Life is about improvement. Everyone should be involved, from children to adults to governments. Laws must be changed and enforced, both in South Africa and in the Eastern countries. There is not just one solution but many and we need to explore and use all options together.

Stuart: What fascinates you about rhinos?

Braam: They are strong and powerful, yet gentle, innocent creatures that mean no harm to anything unless hurt or threatened—a little like humans, but without the greed.

Stuarts Who do you respect the most in the anti-rhino poaching world?

Broam! Many people are doing great work, but I guess it's the "foot soldiers". These are the guys who walk long-distance patrols in dangerous areas, tracking the poachers. They are not well paid and yet they put their lives on the line to protect our precious wildlife.

Stuarth What can kids do to help in the effort against rhino poaching?

Braam: Be a voice, be heard. Make posters at school and tell people how you feel. Raise funds for a cause but make sure the money goes to a credible organisation like the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) or WWF.

STUART DAVIS WITH A RHINO SCULPTURE **BRAAM WITH ONE OF HIS** ANIMAL FRIEND

FIUNA THIMSUNTTUP CELT DAVIS FAMILI ISTUART. PHILLIP HATTINGH (BRAAM)

Four tiny orphans find a new mum.

BY SCOTT ELDER

ungry and cold, a baby red fox cautiously emerges from its hiding place. The little fox, called a kit, follows the scent of its missing mother onto a wooden deck behind a house, but the scent trail mysteriously ends there. Unsure what to do next, the kit stays there, breathing in the comforting reminder of its parent.

Sandra Schulte passes a window in her home in Regina, Canada and catches a glimpse of something on her neighbour's deck. "I saw something greyish moving around," she says. The critter is so small that Sandra thinks it's a little gopher. She steps outside to get a closer look. It's a tiny, shivering fox.

Sandra realises right away why the kit is drawn to that spot. One week before, an adult female fox had died right where the kit is sniffing. Animal control officer Ryan Johnston, who'd been called in to remove the dead fox said she might have kits hidden somewhere. Neighbours didn't see or hear baby foxes-until now.

Thrilled that the kit has survived, Sandra calls Ryan with the news. But before Ryan arrives, the kit retreats back to its hiding place. He shines his torch under the low deck and spots four fuzzy kits huddled together against the house. He catches them all and leaves them in a cardboard box with Sandra and her husband, who agreed to keep the kits in their warm garage overnight until other arrangements could be made.

kits are dangerously undernourished and dehydrated."I was worried about them," Cheryl says. She rushes the little foxes to her facility and gives them fluids every two hours for 24 hours straight. Happily the kits' health begins to improve.

Once the kits regain a healthy body temperature, Cheryl begins feeding them a nutritious formula made specially for young foxes. Soon she begins to add solid food to their diet, including small mice and soft cat food. In just one week at the rehabilitation centre, the orphaned foxes double in weight.

Now that their condition is stable, Winkler introduces the kits to Rose, an adult fox who lives at the facility permanently. Because of poor vision, Rose can't survive in the wild, but Cheryl hopes she can help raise the kits "the fox way." After some sniffing through the fence, Rose gradually spends more time with the orphans and a bond grows between the kits and their foster mum.

Soon Rose stands guard over their enclosure, calls the kits to meals of mice and berries and grumbles warnings to her foster family about unfamiliar humans. "It's absolutely incredible the way her motherly instincts came out," Cheryl says.

The healthy fear of people and other

survival skills that Rose teaches the kits are essential when Cheryl releases the foxes into the wild. She simply opens their enclosure and allows the matured kits to explore the neighbouring Moose Mountain Provincial Park.

Cheryl will put out food until the foxes master hunting and foraging. And the four siblings will always be welcome to visit Rose, their affectionate foster mother.

WHAT NEXT?

LITTLE FOXES The foxes had spent a week without food in nearly freezing temperatures. The Schultes contact Cheryl Winkler, founder of Moose Mountain Recoup and Release Wildlife Rehabilitation, to find out what they should do next. Cheryl advises the Schultes to cover the kits with warm towels and arranges to take the orphans."They didn't look that bad, but looks are deceiving," Cheryl says. "They were all fur and bones." She estimates that the two males and two females are about five weeks old. The smallest one weighs only 400 grams, less than half what a fox its age should weigh. All four



MYTH

ELEPHANTS ARE AFRAID OF MICE

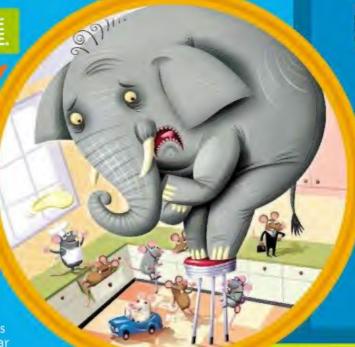
HOW IT

People used to think

liked to crawl into an elephant's trunk. "They thought that would cause great damage and terrible sneezing," says Jack Hanna of the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, that elephants would be afraid of the rodents.

Although elephants do get anxious

when they hear pitter-pattering sounds they can't identify, an elephant's eyesight is so poor that it could barely even see a mouse. And if an elephant isn't afraid to live among predators such as tigers, rhinos and crocodiles, a mouse would be the least of its worries!



MYTH

BULLS CHARGE WHEN THEY SEE RED.

HOW IT

Traditionally a red cape is part of a bullfighter's colourful costume. When

the bullfighter flashes the cape at the bull, the bull charges.

Movement actually makes a bull charge. "I've seen bulls

chase everything from red to blue to checks," says Temple Grandin of Colorado State University in America. "It's the motion of the bullfighter's cape, not the colour."



A CAMEL'S HUMP HOLDS WATER

Thousands of years ago, desert nomads probably noticed how far a camel could travel without water. They might have assumed its hump stored extra H.O.

WHY IT'S NOT TRUE

Few animals can last a week without water, but a camel can survive up to two weeks. One reason is that a camel can get extra moisture from fat - and that's what is stored in its hump. "The hump is composed of up to 36 kilograms of fat for nourishment," Jack says.





MYTH GOLDFISH HAVE ONLY A THREE-SECOND MEMORY

HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED

While an adult human's brain weighs about two kilograms, an average goldfish's brain weighs only a tiny fraction of that. So how could there be any room for memory in there?

WHY IT'S NOT TRUE

Research has shown that goldfish are quite smart. Phil Gee of the University of Plymouth in England trained goldfish to push a lever that dropped food into their tank. "They remembered the time of day that the lever worked and waited until feeding time to press it," Phil says. One scientist even trained goldfish to tell

the difference between classical and blues music

Who are you again?

PUTS THESE TO THE TEST.

ome people mistakenly hang by their tails, or that other wrong ideas are out there?



IF A BIRD EATS RICE, ITS STOMACH WILL EXPLODE.



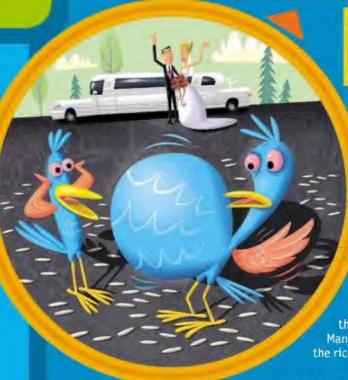
PIGS ARE FILTHY.



Yes, pigs wallow in the mud. Things can

Being muddy doesn't mean a pig is not clean, says Harry Snelson of

the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. Long ago, pigs learned to use mud to meet their needs: it's a natural sunscreen, an insect repellent and a way to keep cool. Pigs are so clean that they refuse to "go" where they sleep.



Because dry rice expands when cooked, people probably

thought a bird's stomach would expand with it. A more likely reason for this myth was to stop wedding guests from throwing rice, which makes the ground slippery for humans.

WHY IT'S NOT TRUE

"A bird's stomach doesn't reach the boiling

point necessary for rice to expand," says Erin Estell of the National Aviary in America. So the rice would never get to a harmful size. And if this myth were true, there would be a lot fewer birds in the world. Many migrate through rice fields and feed on

MYSTER MANAGER

of the BURIED TREASURE

AN ANCIENT STASH
OF GOLD AND SILVER
WORTH MILLIONS
IS UNCOVERED IN A
FARMER'S FIELD.

BY MOLLY LYONS

eep! The man stops suddenly as his metal detector makes a sound. Something is buried under the English field he's been exploring. Is it a worthless piece of metal—or something far more valuable?

It's valuable. The man's discovery turns out to be more than 3 500 pieces of gold and silver treasure buried by ancient warriors at least 1 300 years ago. Archaeologists uncovered sword handles, helmet pieces and shield decorations. Some were studded with jewels or engraved with animals.

The treasure is worth about R40 million. But archaeologists are more excited about what the discovery could tell us about these ancient warriors.

MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE

The treasure was buried by people called the Anglo-Saxons, who settled in England after arriving from Germany starting around AD 410. The Anglo-Saxons were constantly at war – both with each other and with neighbouring lands. They ruled until about 1066, when French invaders called Normans overthrew them.

In the seventh century the most powerful Anglo-Saxon ruler was King Penda of Mercia. Archaeologists like Kevin Leahy, who studied the buried gold and silver, think the treasure may have belonged





to the king. It could have been plunder won in battle, or it might have been part of the king's treasury. No one is sure.

The Anglo-Saxons lived in the Dark Ages, once believed to be a time when little was happening in art or culture. But the treasure helps confirm that the Anglo-Saxon period was a time of great change and amazing artistry.

SECRETS OF THE TREASURE

Anglo-Saxons were considered fierce warriors and they cared about their weapons. But the quality of the metalwork shows they were also artists. Craftsmen created tiny, detailed engravings without magnifying lenses. Some of the materials came from faraway lands. Garnets most likely came from India and gold may have come from what is now Turkey.

The treasure may also shed new light on where Anglo-Saxons lived. The loot was found in western England, rather than

the south or east, where archaeologists believed early Anglo-Saxons settled. That may mean the people had travelled further than once thought.

Still archaeologists have more questions than answers: why were only parts of weapons found? Why weren't there any items belonging to women? Was the treasure buried for safekeeping or to mark a victory? Why didn't they come back for it?

The answers to these mysteries may come with further study, but more than anything, this discovery has brought the people of the Anglo-Saxon era to life. "It's like travelling through time to realise that someone had touched these things centuries before," Kevin says. "One thing is certain: these people wanted to be remembered." Now it's up to archaeologists to figure out their secrets.

TREASURE-**HUNTING TOOLS**

Scientists used modern technology to examine the ancient treasure. **COMPUTERS** The gold and silver pieces were scanned into a computer so scientists could analyse them.

X-RAY FLUORESCENCE X-rays produced energy waves that scientists could measure to instantly know what the treasure was made of. **ELECTRON MICROSCOPES These** zoom in on the finest details. When the treasure was being cleaned, the microscopes were connected to video cameras so scientists could watch the etchings emerge.













Check out these outrageous facts.

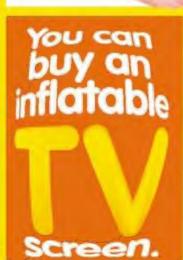
A tightrope Walker is called a funambulist.

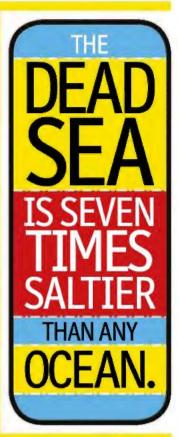












ushrooms glow in the dark.

THE TEMPERATURE ON THE **MOON CAN BE HOTTER THAN** BOILING WATER.

High-tech tools help scientists understand how to save these big cats. BY KAREN DE SEVE ilent and sleek, a snow leopard climbs to a rocky ledge high in the mountains of Mongolia. A springtime breeze carries a whiff of prey to her nose. She spots an ibex—a wild goat—on the steep, rugged slope below. There are few places to hide, but snow leopards are masters of stealth. The big cat stalks her prey, moving like a ghostly shadow against the mountainside. Suddenly the ibex is startled and sprints across the cliffs as the snow leopard springs downhill in pursuit. The air is thin at an altitude of nearly 3 000 metres, but the cat's large lungs and wide nose help her breathe. She holds out her long, wide tail for balance as her big, padded paws grip the ground. A minute later, she has secured her meal and looks for a place to dine. These big cats are nearly impossible to see. Their spotted coats act as cloaks of invisibility by blending into the rocky background. But hunting scenes like these have been captured on video by researchers who spend countless hours searching the mountains of Central Asia for snow leopards. JANUARY 2012



EVEN THOUGH SNOW LEOPARDS LIVE IN SOME OF THE MOST TERRAIN ON EARTH, PEOPLE POSE THE BIGGEST THREAT TO

Researchers think only 3 500 to 7 000 snow leopards exist in the wild, but no one knows for sure. Snow leopard experts need to gather more information about the elusive cats' lives to help protect them. Researchers use high-tech tools to spy on the secretive snow leopards. They gently trap the wild cats to examine them and put on satellite radio collars to track where the cats roam. Motion-activated digital cameras capture images of snow leopards, exposing many new details about how many there are, how they live and what threatens their survival.

The Real Threat

Even though snow leopards live in some of the most rugged mountain terrain on Earth, people pose the biggest threat to their survival. Poachers can sell a snow leopard's hide and bones for thousands of rands. Herdsmen often kill any snow leopard that attacks their livestock. Hunters target ibex, wild sheep and other animals for food and trophies—removing important snow leopard prev.

leopard expert with the conservation group Panthera, are trying to stop these activities to save the snow leopards that remain in the wild. The more Tom can learn about snow leopards, the better he can protect them.

But camouflaged snow leopards are hard to follow in the steep mountains of Central Asia. Tom is tracking eight cats that his team has fitted with radio collars. Like having eyes in the sky, Tom uses a satellite to gather details from a cat's collar so he can keep up with its movements. "The habitat is rugged," he says. "With better equipment, we can follow the cats."

habitat is rugged," he says. "With better equipment, we can follow the cats."

At a high altitude study site, Tom follows the signal from a radio collar that hasn't moved in a couple of days. He suspects it fell off a female snow leopard. Suddenly the snow leopard explodes out from behind a bush about six metres away. The big cat lands at Tom's feet and a split second later her powerful hind legs send her bounding to the ridge above him. In a flash, she is gone, still wearing the collar.

"This must be what an ibex feels like," thinks Tom, his heart pounding. Weighing just under a hundred kilograms, an adult snow leopard could easily bring down a person.

"If that had been a tiger or lion or any other big cat, I wouldn't be here to talk about it," Tom says. The snow leopard's docile nature is a plus for him. Local herdsmen and hunters also know that snow leopards don't attack humans, which makes them easy to kill. But high-tech tracking devices mean he can learn new



RUGGED MOUNTAIN THEIR SURVIVAL.

things about how and where they live, which helps conservation efforts.

Social Networking

On a cool summer night, a snow leopard walks into a popular scraping site. This lone, mature male curiously sniffs an overhanging boulder for a strong scent sprayed by other cats. He rubs his cheek on the boulder, scrapes the ground with his hind paws and then urinates on it.

Scraping sites are the snow leopard version of Facebook. "When users go on Facebook, they tell others what they're doing. Snow leopards use 'Scrapebook," says Koustubh Sharma, a researcher with Snow Leopard Trust. "They scrape and urinate on it and that's how they communicate. It may reveal whether a snow leopard is male or female, has cubs, or is looking for a mate." The next snow leopard that visits the site will get to know a lot about others in the area.

looking for a mate." The next snow leopard that visits the site will get to know a lot about others in the area.

Koustubh keeps scraping sites under surveillance using motion-activated cameras. Like a snow leopard reality TV show, cameras expose everything that

happens. "We see cubs playing in front of the camera

happens. "We see cubs playing in front of the camera while their mom spends time around," he says. The camera images help researchers count the number of snow leopards in an area and reveal whether prey animals, livestock or poachers are nearby.

poachers are nearby.

In many places winter weather forces snow leopards down to lower land to follow prey that has gone to warmer elevations in search of food. There the cats compete with people over the available food supply.

With prey animals becoming scarce, one

young male snow leopard starts across an open desert to find new hunting grounds on a mountain range 80 kilometres away. As he heads across the rocky landscape, his camouflaged coat makes him disappear, but his tracking collar tells scientists where he goes. Technology such as this is essential to help researchers like Tom and Koustubh protect this snow leopard, other cats like him and their habitat.



HOW YOU CAN HELP Big Cats Initiative Cheetahs, lions, tigers and other wild cats need protection. Learn more about big cats and National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative online. kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/big-cats/or ngbigcats.org NATIONAL BIG CATS INITIATIVE



"killer whale".

radar, to find food and navigate.

1,5 to 1,6 kilograms.



Dolphins have been seen hunting and working together to herd fish into tight balls.

The smallest is the tucuxi dolphin, which grows to about 1, 2 metres.

Dolphins are warm-blooded. Their bodies stay at about the same temperature all the time.



Let your imagination run wild and create a wonderful artwork. Pick up a paintbrush, make a collage or draw something. Get arty and enter the NG KIDS Young Artists competition.

WHAT TO DO

- Paint a picture, create a sculpture or make a collage. You can be inspired by anything you like and it can be any size!
- Decide in which categories you want to take part. You can enter one artwork in each category.
- Entries open on 14 December 2011 and close on 21 February 2012.

WAYS TO ENTER

- Turn to page 38 for the entry form.
- E-mail your entries to yac@ngkids.co.za. Remember to write NG KIDS YAC in the subject line and include your age group with your artwork's title and category.
- Post your entry to NG KIDS Young Artists Competition, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8001.
- Visit the NG KIDS SA fan page on Facebook and click on the YAC tab.
- Deliver your entry to ABSA Building, Media24 Lifestyle Division, Ground Floor Reception, 4 Adderley Street, Cape Town.

AGE GROUPS

- 5 to 7
- . 8 to 11
- · 12 to 14

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NG KIDS YOUNG ARTISTS



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COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

FULL NAME:	AGE: BIRTH DATE:				
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:					
	SCHOOL:				
ARTWORK TITLE/S:	CATEGORIES: (you can enter up to three artworks: DRAWING AND PAINTING SCULPTURE	This is my own original work and I give NG KIDS permission to publish and display my art. I agree that the art will become the property of NG KIDS and that all rights are transferred to NG KIDS.			
	COLLAGE AND MIXED MEDIA	CTCN ATLIDE			

NAME OF GUARDIAN: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Closing date: 21 February 2012

GUARDIAN'S CELL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

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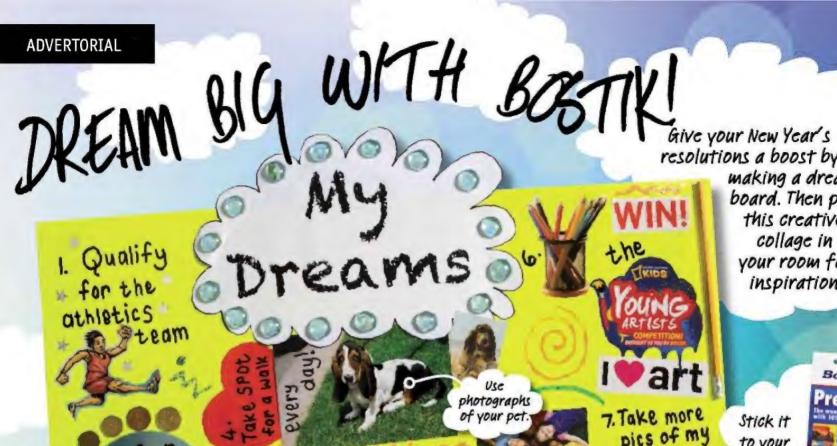
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friends

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ART BOX

WHAT YOU DO

- 5. Think about the goals you have for the year ahead. You can brainstorm ideas with parents or friends if you like.
- 2 Write them down on a piece of paper and circle the ones you want to concentrate on.
- Decide how you want to illustrate each one and collect your materials.
- 45 Arrange your dream board ideas on a large piece of craft paper and play with the design before you glue them for good!

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STULLING Sames, laughs and lots to do!







Cape Town is celebrating the New Year over Table Mountain, which is one of the new Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Spot eleven differences between the two fireworks pictures. ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

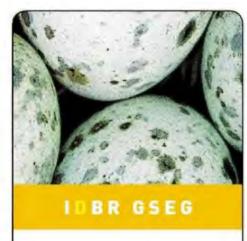


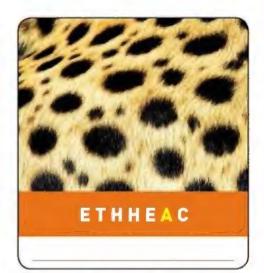
SPOTTED IN NATURE

These photographs show close-up views of things with spots. Unscramble the letters to identify each picture.

Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below. ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

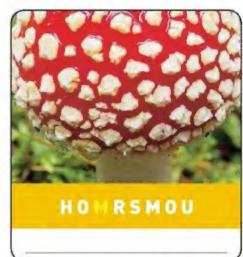


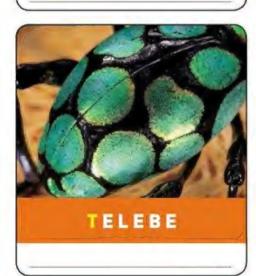


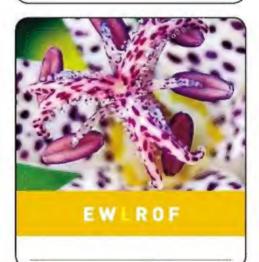


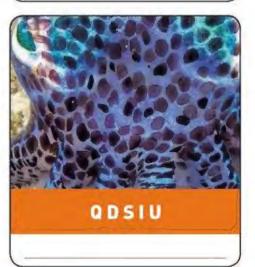












HINT: Call them spots or dots, this canine has lots.

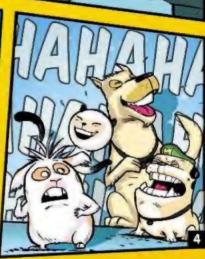


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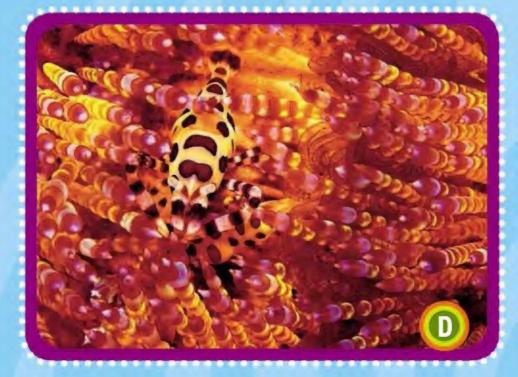
Animals often blend into their environments for protection. Find the animals listed below in the photographs. Write the letter of the correct photo next to each animal's name. ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

- 1. hare
- 3. eel
- 5. owl
- 7. tiger 8. praying mantis
- 9. fish

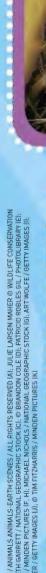
11. bat





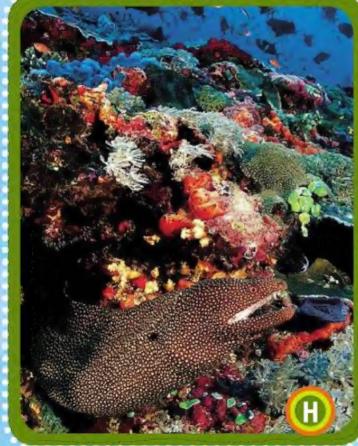


















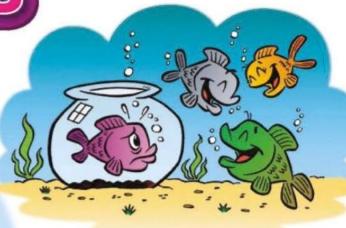








"DON'T YOU KNOW 'GO FISH' IS A CARD GAME?"



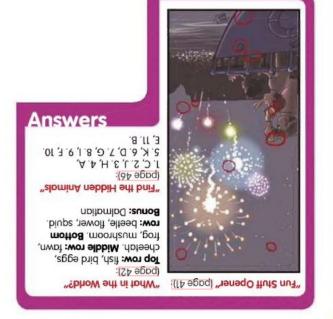
"GUESS WHO WAS GROUNDED AGAIN?"



"...AND SPANKY DID THAT ONE!"



"DID YOU REMEMBER TO ZIP UP THE TENT, BOBBY?"



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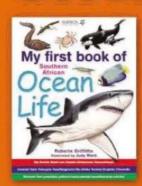




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